

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

In response to the Official Action and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter the following rewritten paragraphs from the specification of the instant application.

Please amend the paragraphs [0002], [0024], [0028], [0030], [0036], [0044], [0052] and the Abstract as indicated below:

[Abstract] There is provided herein an invention that utilizes a themed template which is designed to assist novice video editors quickly compose a complete video work which memorializes a particular familiar occasion, such as, for example, a birthday, a wedding, a trip ~~trips~~ to the theme park, etc. The template for each such occasion will be customized with predefined cells that are annotated with descriptions of events that might occur during said occasions. A user will be able to drop his or her own video and/or audio clips taken at the occasions into the cells and, if this is done according to the annotations, thereby create a complete video work that memorializes the selected occasion.

[0002] Although many home movie enthusiasts are satisfied with taking video and then subsequently showing the raw video footage to acquaintances, the trend today is toward more post-show editing to improve the product. The ready availability of digital cameras and editing software which runs on conventional personal computers has encouraged even the novice videographer to try his or her hand at editing. Obviously, a properly edited video can be much more entertaining

and enjoyable for the viewer than the unedited footage which may contain large sections of unusable or irrelevant material. Additionally, to the extent that ~~back~~ ~~ground~~ background music, transition effects, etc., are added to the project, the work can take on a near-professional quality which, for some individuals, is its own reward.

[0024] Turning next to **FIG. 6**, in a preferred arrangement a user will interact with the instant invention by way of a computer monitor **600**. Preferably, the screen layout as it appears on the computer monitor **600** will include a graphical representation of the selected themed video template **660**, including cells **610** into which visual ~~digitals~~ digital works may be placed and tracks **615** suitable for receipt of audio works. It should be noted that the sort of digital visual works contemplated by the inventors that might be suitable for addition to each such cell **610** include both video clips as well as individual graphic images (e.g., a “JPG” file or other static image file) which might come from, for example, a digital still camera, a single frame of a video clip, or from a scanned conventional photograph. Of course, in the event that the user elects to use a single/static image within a template location **610**, preferably the instant method will automatically select an appropriate viewing time (e.g., a few seconds) for that image when it is incorporated into and rendered as part of the video work. Of course, the user might be given the option of modifying this predetermined viewing time to suit his or her own tastes and needs.

[0028] ~~Turning~~ Turning next to **FIGS. 4 and 5**, according to a preferred embodiment the screen layout will contain at least the fields mentioned previously

and, in practice, the input fields will contain explanatory annotation to make it clear to a user what sort of film clip should be inserted into the template at each location. Note that, for purposes of illustration only, **FIGS. 4 and 5** reflect the use of a birthday party template, i.e., a video template that is designed to assist an end user in documenting a child's birthday party. It should be noted and remembered that this themed template is offered by way of illustration, and not limitation, and those of ordinary skill in the art will be readily able to develop alternative themed templates to suit any number of occasions.

[0030] First with respect to the annotation insertion point **450** and as is illustrated more fully in **FIG. 3**, in certain types of input cells the user will be prompted to enter text that ~~specifies~~ specifies particulars of the birthday celebrant and/or of the party into the template. This information could include the celebrant's name, the date of the birthday party, the then-age of the ~~applicant~~ celebrant, the location of the party, etc. Entry by a user of this sort of information will enable the instant method to compose a title video clip of a preferred length that contains the entered information and possibly additional indicia of a birthday celebration (e.g., a picture of a cake, balloons, etc.) as is illustrated in the right hand screen display of **FIG. 3**. Of course, depending on the preference of the template designer, the length of time that this --- or any other --- title is visible on the screen within the rendered video work might or might not be alterable by the end user.

[0036] Finally, timeline **460** is provided to give the user a feel for the composition of the completed video work. As is generally illustrated in **FIG. 5**, in

the preferred embodiment some indication of the relative length of each included video clip will be displayed within the timeline **460**. In the example of **FIG. 5**, a letter of the alphabet has been associated with each of the template locations (i.e., “A” with the first location **510**, “B” with the second **515**, etc.) and the number of the same letters that appear in sequence represents the length of the video clip (e.g., each segment of the time line might represent ten seconds of video play time). Of course, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that there are many ways in which this play-time information could be communicated to the user including, without limitation, a timeline that represents the running time of each video clip in a different color, with a ~~thumbnails~~ thumbnail of the corresponding clip, etc.

[0044] Given the template, the preferred embodiment continues by allowing the user to choose the input data which is designated for the selected template location (step **229**). Preferably, this will be accomplished via “drag and drop” between file input windows **640** and **650** and the template locations. Additionally, it would ~~be~~ normally be expected that there ~~would~~ be some check on the sort of information that the user is allowed to assign each template location, with at least some minimal screening by the software to make certain that an audio track is not dropped into a video template location. That being said, in some cases more than one type of file might be suitable for use in some template locations including, for example, a static digital image file (e.g., “.JPG”, “.GIF”, “.BMP”, etc.) could certainly be accepted for input into a video template cell. Of course, the attendant software will preferably resize the selected digital image file to fit within the confines and aspect ratio of a video frame.

[0052] It is generally expected that the contents of a video template will be rendered before being viewed or written to output in a final form. That being said rendering may not always be strictly necessary in the case where, for example, the template does not contain any static slides of textual, graphic, etc., information nor any transitions or effects. In such a case, e.g., where the template cells contain only a collection of video clips which have been stored in themed cells in the order suggested by the template designer, in theory no rendering in the traditional sense would be necessary, as the film clips could just be written sequentially to disk/tape. However for purposes of the instant invention, the term “rendering” will be interpreted in its broadest ~~to~~ sense to mean creation of individual video frames (e.g., traditional rendering) as well as assembling a collection of individual video clips into a continuous/unified video work.